SNOW & ICE OPERATIONS

The Grafton Department of Public Works is pleased to issue "A Resident's Informational Guide to Winter Snow & lee Operations and Procedures". The intent of this guide is to advise Grafton residents of the Department of Public Work's winter snow plowing and anti-icing/de-icing objectives and to obtain your assistance so that Grafton's roads can be restored to "normal conditions" as promptly and efficiently as possible after a storm. Your cooperation is essential for the Department of Public Works to achieve this objective. With your assistance and patience, we will be able to provide you with the important functions of our winter maintenance operation i.e., get roads treated and plowed quickly, keep traffic flowing and restore roads to safe traveling conditions quickly. We thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

WINTER PARKING BAN

From December to May the Town's snow & ice parking ban is in effect. This ban prohibits the parking of motor vehicles on any public way at during storms or snow and ice removal operations. This allows the Department of Public Works to plow and open roads in a more efficient and timely manner.

Illegally parked vehicles are the biggest obstacles to effectively plowing snow from the roads and they also slow down the Departments response time. Vehicles that violate the winter parking ban will be ticketed and towed by the Police Dept. at the owner's expense. Your cooperation with the parking ban will be greatly appreciated.

By-Laws.

Article 12 - "Safety and Order" - Section 8A "Towing of Obstructing Vehicles"

The Director of Public Works or his designee or other officer having charge of ways for the purpose of removing or plowing snow, or removing ice, from any way, may remove or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including in such term a public garage, any vehicle interfering with such work, and the owner of such vehicle shall be responsible for the cost of such removal and all storage charges, if any resulting therefrom.

Article 12 - "Safety and Order"- Section 8B "Penalty".

Whoever violates any provision of the previous section (8A) of the By-Laws shall be liable to a penalty of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the second offense and One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.

DEPOSITING SNOW ON TOWN ROADWAYS

Another challenge the Department Of Public Works has to deal with the plowing and depositing of snow from private property out into the roadway. This practice is illegal and in addition it prolongs the timeline and increases the cost for clearing the Town's roads.

Article 12-"Safety and Order"-Section 8C "Depositing Snow on Town Roadways".

No person other than an employee in the service of the Town, or an employee in the service of an independent contractor acting for the Town, shall pile, push or plow snow or ice onto or across a Town roadway. Whoever violates this section shall be punished by a fine of One hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for each offense.

Questions regarding parking restrictions should be referred to Department Of Public Works office (508) 839-5335 x 124 Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SNOWPLOWING OPERATIONS

The following is a general description of the Department of Public Work's snow & ice operational plan. As you are aware each storm has unique characteristics that influence, the type of treatment to be undertaken. Below is a general outline to our snow & ice operations.

Our SNOW & ICE PROGRAM entails three phases:

Phase 1. Preemptive Anti-icing operation

Phase 2. Plowing operation

Phase 3. De-icing operation (if necessary)

Phase I Preemptive Anti-icing Operation

The Department receives advanced localized weather intelligence from our private weather service provider. Based on this information the Department Of Public Works prepares to execute a snow & ice plan that is suitable for each anticipated snow & ice event. Typically, in advance of a pending snow & ice storm event, the Department Of Public Works initiates its anti-icing operations by spreading salt and liquid calcium chloride as necessary. The order of treatment starts first, on the major and minor arterial roads, collector roads, hills, school bus routes, school & municipal facilities and last all other local roads when warranted. This operation serves two main purposes: it prevents the snow from bonding and compacting to the pavement and it minimizes the time and effort of plowing and de-icing operations later on. The Department Of Public Works utilizes eight (8) anti-icing/de-icing material spreader trucks for this operation.

Phase II Plowing

Plowing operations begin when a minimum of two (2) to three (3) inches of snow accumulates on the ground. The Department of Public Works employs seventeen (17) town equipment and fifteen (15) or more pieces of contracted equipment depending on availability to assist with the snow plowing operations. Each equipment hired is assigned to a route and remains in that route until the storm subsides. The main objective during the snow storm is to keep roads passable. At the end of the storm, the plows begin to by push back the amassed snow to the edge of the pavement to make room for the next snow event. Residents may want to consider waiting until the roads have been plowed clear (push back) before clearing the windrows from the entrance of their driveways. If snow banks need to be pushed back further due to heavy build-up on the roadway gutter line, we will attempt to due so following a storm or the next day after a storm depending on the duration of the storm and the number of active duty hours for the crews have expended fighting a storm.

The Department of Public Works staff, are trained and dedicated to plow for the duration of the snow & ice storm when necessary, keeping the roads open and passable. If a plow truck is riding with its plow up, it may be returning to the garage for fuel, repairs or redirected to rapidly respond to another sector for assistance. Please be advised that Route 122 and parts of Route of 140 are maintained by the Massachusetts Highway Department and not by the Town of Grafton Department Of Public Works.

Residents should not be alarmed if they do not see their road plowed during the early

part of a snow storm. The Department Of Public Works follows an assigned route plan whereby main roads and other priority roads and facilities are plowed first. Please be patient, all Town-owned roads will eventually be plowed.

Another area of concern is mailboxes. We do not "deliberately" knock over or damage mailboxes. Please be advised any personal property placed within the Town's right-of-way (i.e., yard fences, mailbox, sprinkler heads etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. Hence, residents are encouraged to place mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the pavement in accordance with postal regulations. The Department of Public Works does not reimburse for mailboxes damaged arising from routine snow plowing operations. Mailboxes should be inspected regularly to insure that they are secured properly and that wood posts are not rotted out. Majority of the mail boxes get damaged from the weight of the snow falling back from the plow and not as a result of a direct impact with the plow.

An additional obstacle to our snow and ice operation is the basketball hoops that are placed in town roads. These hoops are tough to see when it is snowing and are capable of snagging and damaging our snow plow trucks. In the event that this happens and damage is caused to our equipment, the owner will be held responsible for the damage. So "please" take the time to remove the hoops during the winter months. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Phase III De-icing Operation

Once the snowfall has stopped and all roads are clear of snow, if warranted post storm deicing operation commences. All roads are again treated with salt and liquid calcium chloride when necessary to improve traction and melt remaining snow and ice. (exception to this policy will only be when material(s) supply are extremely low and only main roads, hills and bus routes become more of a priority than those secondary roads during the periods of low quantities salt availability).

How Can Residents Help:

Residents can assist the Department of Public Works during a snow storm by heeding these suggestions:

- 1. Observe all winter parking bans
- 2. Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- 3. Remain off the streets during snow storms unless absolutely necessary.

- 4. Do not allow children to make "snow forts" at edge of roads.
- 5. Do not plow, blow or throw snow back into the road. It is illegal
- 6. Before final clean-up of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a plow will be most likely returning to plow again, and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.
- 7. During plowing operations some lawn areas located within the town's right of way (roadway shoulder) will inadvertently be damaged. To help keep this from occurring, we recommend installing reflectors at the edge of your lawn placed six (6) inches back from the edge of pavement as a guide for our plow operators. If lawn sprinkler system is installed please keep them away from the edge of the road. The Department of Public Works is not responsible for repairing or replacing them if damaged during snow plowing operations. Please be aware that if you have installed sprinkler heads near the edge of the road, they most like are located on town property.
- 8. Finally, please have patience. Snow plowing is a time consuming and arduous job covering approximately 100 miles of roads. Some of the roads will be plowed first and some will be last, but at the end all town roads will be plowed and cleared.

The Department of Public Works is devoted to providing the residents of Grafton with dependable snow and ice operation in the shortest and most efficient time possible. With your cooperation we will all benefit during a snow storm. If you have any questions concerning the snow and ice operations as it is explained, please call (508) 839-8525 or visit our web site at www.town.grafton.ma.us We will try to assist you in any way possible. For your convenience during snow & ice operations we have dedicated staff to take calls from residence concerning road conditions.